

57 Jaws

Of all the fish in the ocean, sharks are the greediest eaters and killers. They suffer from continual hunger. Almost as soon as they have eaten, they are on the prowl for more food. Sharks have been described as eating machines, and indeed they are perfectly designed for that activity. They are powerful swimmers, with smooth, well-muscled, streamlined bodies.

But the most remarkable part of a shark is its mouth—a wide gash lined with rows of jagged teeth. When a shark attacks, it opens its mouth wide until its teeth can stab straight into the body of its victim. The teeth slice like razors as the shark twists and rolls its body to tear off a chunk of food. New teeth are constantly being formed and moving forward to take the place of those lost during the shark's violent feeding activities. Even very old sharks have razor-sharp teeth.

The largest and most fearsome of the species is the great white shark. Its average length is between fourteen and sixteen feet. A few great whites may reach well over thirty feet in length. The longest ever recorded was a thirty-seven-footer, a truly monstrous fish. The great white lives in the tropical seas and sometimes along the southern coast of the United States.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Sharks are large ocean fish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Sharks are greedy eaters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Sharks are powerful fish well designed to hunt other fish for food.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mostly about
☐ a. great white sharks.
☐ b. how sharks are designed for their eating needs.
☐ c. the way in which sharks grow new teeth.
☐ d. why so many people hate and fear sharks. _____
- Supporting Details** 3 Sharks tear off food by
☐ a. squeezing it.
☐ b. slicing it.
☐ c. killing it.
☐ d. rolling their bodies. _____
- Conclusion** 4 We can infer from this passage that
☐ a. even old sharks have no trouble eating.
☐ b. old sharks starve to death because of weak teeth.
☐ c. sharks fear people and will not go near them.
☐ d. sharks die young because they wear themselves out. _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 "Jagged" teeth are
☐ a. dull.
☐ b. broken.
☐ c. sharp and uneven.
☐ d. large. _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 Continual means
☐ a. painful.
☐ b. fierce.
☐ c. constant.
☐ d. enormous. _____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 217.

Total
Score